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# WORLD WAR I REVIEW GUIDE

Be able to define all of the following terms in preparation for the World War I Unit Test.

Terms 1 – 4 are all causes of the outbreak of World War I in Europe.

1. **imperialism** (p. 706) – When larger, more powerful nations control smaller, weaker nations either economically or politically. Most major European nations were imperial powers in Africa – controlling colonies across the continent.

2. **nationalism** (p. 706) – feelings of great pride in one’s country. Although you may equate nationalism with patriotism, nationalism may be felt by any ethnic or historical group – whether they have their own nation or not. So nationalism can lead to civil war or revolution.

3. **militarism** (p. 706) – The glorification and build-up of military forces throughout Europe during the period before the Great War. Nations built up their militaries to protect colonial possessions and as self-defense against other colonial powers.

4. **Alliance System** (p. 706) – Defensive agreements between nations in which three or more nations would pledge to defend their allies in the event that they were attacked by a rival country.

Study the map on page 707. Be able to identify all of the Allied Powers nations and the Central Powers nations.

5. **The Allied Powers** – RUSSIA, FRANCE, ENGLAND, SERBIA, BELGIUM, USA

6. **The Central Powers** – GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, BULGARIA, OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

7. **Franz Ferdinand** (p. 707) The Archduke to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were assassinated by a Serbian Nationalist, Gavrilo Princips, in Sarajevo in June of 1914. After his death, the Austro-Hungarian Empire threatened to invade Serbia if they did not give in to a list of demands.

8. **trench warfare** (p. 707) – Soldiers fire on one another from opposing lines of dugout trenches. Trenches lined the Western Front from the English Channel to Switzerland. It was practically impossible for soldiers to advance on enemy lines due to the razor wire and machine guns trained on the area known as “no man’s land.”

9. **U-Boats** (p. 709) – German submarines. Unrestricted submarine warfare resulted in the downing of merchant vessels and navy ships. American boats were victimized, too.

10. See the picture under the title “Trench Warfare.” Identify at least four (4) other types of **new weapons** (besides U-boats) which were used during World War I. (p. 708-709)

**Poison Gas, Hand Grenades, Airplanes, Tanks, Machine Guns.**

11. **Woodrow Wilson** (p. 708) – The President of the United States during the World War I Era. When the war started, Wilson encouraged Americans to follow a strict policy of neutrality. After several incidents – the Lusitania, the Sussex, the Zimmermann Telegram – he would change course and ask for a declaration of war against Germany.

12. **Neutrality** (p. 708) – The policy of supporting neither side in a major conflict. President Wilson encouraged Americans to remain neutral in mind as well as in action during the first two years of the war, from 1914 to 1916. Later, he would encourage Americans to join the war effort against Germany.

13. ***Lusitania*** (p. 709-710) – A British passenger liner sunk off the southern coast of Ireland, May 7, 1915 – killing over 1000 passengers, including 128 Americans. The ship, although a passenger vessel, was loaded with a cargo of military equipment. Germany had warned passengers that they would attempt to torpedo the ship by placing ads in local New York newspapers, and ultimately, they carried out their threats.

14. **Sussex Pledge** (NOTES) – After a German submarine sank the *Sussex* in the English Channel in 1916, the United States threatened war. To prevent the USA from entering the conflict, Germany pledged to end all unrestricted submarine warfare – guaranteeing freedom of the seas. Germany would later go back on this pledge, but for a while, the USA was satisfied.

15. **unrestricted submarine warfare** – Germany resumed this practice in February of 1917. Basically, German U-boats would sink merchant vessels, naval ships, barges, and even passenger liners on the open seas without warning the innocent passengers on board that they were about to do so.

16. **The Zimmermann Telegram** (p. 710) – A telegram from Germany to Mexico, encouraging Mexico to attack the USA. Germany hoped that if Mexico kept the USA occupied in a North American war, the Americans would not be able to support the Allied Powers in Europe. When English and American diplomats discovered the correspondence, it was another reason for Americans to enter the war against Germany.

17. **John J. “Blackjack” Pershing** (p. 718) – The leader of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. As the commander of all US forces in Europe during World War I, Pershing worked cooperatively with French Supreme Commander Ferdinand Foch to defeat the enemy. He gained great fame and recognition in the United States.

18. **The American Expeditionary Force (AEF)** (p. 718) – The name of the United States Army while it was completing its mission in Europe during World War I.

19. **The Role of African-American Soldiers in World War I** – (p. 713) –

* Over 380,000 African American soldiers volunteered to serve in World War I;
* The men served in segregated units and faced discrimination from US soldiers;
* Many of the African-American regiments were assigned to French leadership;
* Often, blacks were assigned to remedial duties: cargo, kitchen, construction work;
* Several African-American soldiers won the highest military honor in France, the Croix de Guerre – they fought at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, Argonne Forest, and elsewhere.

20. **the convoy system** (p. 718) – The convoy system was use by the United States to make passage across the Atlantic Ocean safe – convoys were a large group of merchant vessels sailing together with military accompaniment to scare off submarines.

21. **War Bonds (or Liberty Bonds)** (p. 715) – Americans were encouraged to purchase war bonds and liberty bonds. They were essentially short term loans from Americans to their government to raise money for the war effort!

[NOTE: The purpose of the sale of these bonds was to raise money for the war effort.]

22**. propaganda** (p. 714) – information produced by the government which was intended not only to inform the public about World War I, but also to manipulate public opinion about the war. Often, biased and one-sided war stories or posters encouraging support of the war effort were propaganda.

23. **The Espionage Act and the Sedition Act** (p. 715) - This law, passed as the United States entered into World War I, made it a crime to interfere in any way with the recruitment of soldiers into the United States Army or to act in such a way as to undermine American war efforts or support any of the Central Powers. Both Pacifists and radical thinkers were arrested under the law during WW I. The Sedition Act was an amendment and addition to the Espionage Act which forbid disloyal or anti-government speeches delivered during the war. The law undermined the first amendment’s free speech provisions; it was repealed in 1920. More pacifists were arrested under this provision than enemy sympathizers.

24. **What happened to Eugene V. Debs due to the Sedition Act?** (p. 715) -

Eugene V. Debs was arrested for making the following speech in Canton, Ohio, in 1918:

“Let me emphasize the fact—and it cannot be repeated too often—that the working class who fight all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war and they alone make peace. “Yours not to reason why; Yours but to do and die.” That is their motto and we object on the part of the awakening workers of this nation. If war is right let it be declared by the people. You who have your lives to lose, you certainly above all others have the right to decide the momentous issue of war or peace. “

- *Eugene V. Debs, June 16, 1918, Canton, Ohio*

25. **What happened on November 11, 1918 at 11 AM?** (p. 722) –

The armistice which brought World War I to a close began.

[NOTE: Today, the anniversary of this date is known as Armistice Day. In the United States, we call the day of remembrance Veterans Day and usually celebrate it on November 11th. If it falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the next Monday is usually designated a national holiday for Veterans Day]

26. **Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Point Plan** (p. 723) – Woodrow Wilson’s plan for a lasting peace in Europe following World War I. Many of the ideas were included in the Treaty of Versailles which ended the war. Freedom of the seas, free trade, an end to secret treaties, the establishment of numerous new nations, and the creation of the League of Nations were his major goals in the 14 Point Plan.

27. **The League of Nations** (p. 723-725) – the international peacekeeping organization which Woodrow Wilson hoped to create and have the United States join following World War I. The League of Nations was created and centered in Geneva, Switzerland; however, the United States would never join the world government, which made it weak and ineffective.

28. **The Treaty of Versailles** (p. 724) – The Treaty which brought World War I to an end officially. In the treaty, Germany was blamed for starting the war and forced to pay tens of billions of dollars in reparations. In addition, seven new nations were established, various international laws were put into place, and the League of Nations was created.

29. **Which nation was forced to accept full blame for starting World War I in this treaty?** (p. 294)

GERMANY

30. **reparations** (p. 724) – payments to cover war damages. After World War I, Germany was forced to pay reparations to all of the Allied Power nations – France, England, Italy, Russia, and the United States.

31. **Study the map of “Postwar Europe, 1919” on page 725. Identify the seven (7) new nations on the map of Europe, according to the key:**

FINLAND, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA.

[NOTE: After the Great War, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was demolished. Austria was established as an independent nation, and so was Hungary. Russia, which had experienced a communist revolution and quit the war in 1917 was re-named the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics(USSR), or the Soviet Union after the war.]

32. **Did the United States ever ratify the Treaty of Versailles?** (p. 294)

~~YES~~ **NO**

33. **Did the United States of America ever join the League of Nations?** (p. 294)

~~YES~~ **NO**